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Examiner: **M Radtke**
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Examiner Interview Agenda

Application No.: 10/648,507
 Docket No.: 301410.1 / MSFT-1948
 Filing Date: August 25, 2003
 Examiner: Mark A. X. Radtke
 Attorney: Kenneth R. Eiferman

Independent Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method for associating an application entity managed by an application with a plurality of related service entities each corresponding to a different business process administered by a different one of a plurality of application services, the application maintaining application metadata corresponding to the application entity, the application services maintaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities, **the service metadata including a classification of an availability of one or more actions performable in connection with the related service entities**, the method comprising:

matching the related service entities based on the service metadata;
combining the related service entities into a context entity that is a single entity derived from one or more service entities;
 combining service metadata corresponding to the context entity into context metadata;
 matching the application entity to the context entity based on the application metadata and the context metadata;
 determining a state of each service entity within its corresponding different business process, each of the different business processes having a plurality of pre-defined states;
determining dynamic actions available on the related service entities based on the classification of the availability of the one or more actions performable in connection with the related service entities, the available dynamic actions comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on each service entity within its corresponding different business process; and
 generating a display of the state of each service entity within its corresponding different business process and the available dynamic actions.

16. (Currently Amended) A system for managing an application entity at an application, the system comprising:

a processor;
a memory;
a display device;
 a first application service **residing in the memory**, said first application service maintaining first service metadata corresponding to a first service entity and providing the first service metadata to a context service, **the first service metadata including a classification of an availability of one or more actions performable in connection with the first service entity**;
 a second application service **residing in the memory**, said second application service maintaining second service metadata corresponding to a second service entity and providing said second service metadata to said context service, the second service entity being related to the first service entity, **the second service metadata including a classification of an availability of one or more actions performable in connection with the second service entity**;
 the application, said application **residing in the memory and** maintaining application metadata corresponding to the application entity and providing the application metadata to a context service; **and**
 the context service, said context service **residing in the memory and maintaining a**

context entity derived from the first and second service entities, matching the application entity to the context entity, and providing the first and second service metadata to said application, the first and second service metadata being displayed by said application using the display device, the first service metadata comprising a state of the first service entity within a first business process administered by the first application service and having a first plurality of pre-defined states, the first service metadata further comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on the first service entity within the first business process, the second service metadata comprising a state of the second service entity within a second business process administered by the second application service and having a second plurality of pre-defined states, the second service metadata further comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on the second service entity within the second business process.

25. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium for associating an application entity managed by an application with a plurality of related service entities each having attributes and corresponding to a different business process administered by a different one of a plurality of application services, the application maintaining application metadata corresponding to the application entity, the application services maintaining service metadata corresponding to the related service entities, **the service metadata including a classification of an availability of one or more actions performable in connection with the related service entities**, the computer readable storage medium having stored thereon computer-executable instructions that cause a computer to execute the following steps:

matching the related service entities by cross-referencing the attributes of the related service entities and identifying relationships between the related service entities based on a nomenclature of the attributes;

combining the related service entities into a context entity that is a single entity derived from one or more service entities;

combining service metadata corresponding to the context entity into context metadata; matching the application entity to the context entity based on the application metadata and the context metadata;

determining a state of each service entity within its corresponding different business process, each of the different business processes having a plurality of pre-defined states;

determining dynamic actions available on the related service entities **based on the classification of the availability of the one or more actions performable in connection with the related service entities**, each dynamic action associated with a classification of its availability to be performed in connection with the related service entities, the available dynamic actions comprising an indication of whether a state change is available on each service entity within its corresponding different business process;

identifying dynamic actions that may cause conflicts by evaluating the classifications of the availability of the dynamic actions; and

generating a display of the state of each service entity within its corresponding different business process and the available dynamic actions.

Remarks

Claims 1, 16, and 25 all recite combining related service entities into a context entity that is a single entity derived from one or more service entities.

Contrast: Cloud et al. teaches “multiple disparate back end systems,” but teaches a message driven architecture that “decomposes a complex request into several individual transactions and recomposes the results of those transactions into one or more replies.” See column 7, lines 49-51. Cloud et al.

teaches dividing a complex task into discrete units of work, dispatching the units of work, and composing one or more reply messages based on the results of the units of work.

Cloud et al. does not teach consolidation of service entities into a context entity. While the system of Cloud et al. may divide, for example, a loan approval process into different units of work, there is no suggestion that the different entities acted on by the different units of work – as described at column 13, lines 44-47 (credit history, account balance, credit card status, bank fund availability) – are combined into a single context entity.

The claims also recite that the service metadata includes a classification of an availability of one or more actions performable in connection with the related service entities. The cited references do not disclose this limitation.